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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/083,405	02/27/2002	Hidefumi Adachi	381AS/50989	7380

7590 04/24/2003

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EXAMINER

TO, TUAN C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3663

DATE MAILED: 04/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/083,405	ADACHI, HIDEFUMI
	Examiner Tuan C To	Art Unit 3663

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 27 February 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2 .

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.
- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
- (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 1-3, and 7-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being unpatentable by Richardson et al. (US 6081762A).

Claims 1-3, 14-19: Richardson et al disclose another adaptive cruise control apparatus comprising: means for sensing a speed of the vehicle (see abstract), means for detecting distance between the vehicle and the preceding vehicle (see Figure 1), means for accelerating/decelerating the first-mentioned vehicle (see column 1, lines 63-67; column 2, lines 1-15), means for detecting traveling environment. When said distance is greater than a set value, cruise speed is maintained. When said distance is less than the set value, the distance is maintained at a predetermined value (see column 2, lines 66 and 67; column 3, lines 1-19), canceling the ACC terminating immediately after the cancellation of the ACC, cruise speed is selected depending on the traveling environment (see column 2, lines 53-65).

Claims 7-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable by Teramura et al. (US 6226588B1).

The Teramura et al patent is another example of controlling vehicle deceleration based on the vehicle speed. Teramura et al directs to an adaptive cruise control system having at least one inter vehicle control for enabling the host vehicle to follow the target vehicle. With respect to the subject matter of those claims, Teramura et al. provide a plurality of cruise control switches (figure 1, 12), for setting the range of the cruise speed for the vehicle.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teramura et al. (US 6226588B1) and in view of Sielagowski et al. (US 6393352B2).

As discussed in the previous paragraph, Teramura et al. disclose the cruise control system for the motor vehicle, including the teachings of a main switch for setting a state in which the cruise control system can start. However, Teramura et al. do not

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disclose the ACC is maintained in a deceleration of 0-0.1G and cancelled in a deceleration of 0.3G. The second reference to Sielagoski et al is cited because it overcomes the missing the features from Teramura et al. For example, in figure 2 and figure 3, Sielagoski et al. clearly explain the relation between the maximum deceleration and the vehicle speed in the present of plots. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Teramura et al. to include the teachings of Sielagoski et al for properly setting the cruise speed when the host vehicle is located at a predetermined distance with the preceding vehicle.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record, which are listed in PTO-892, and not relied upon are considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure includes the following:

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan C To whose telephone number is (703) 308-6273. The examiner can normally be reached on from 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on (703) 305-8233. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7687 for regular communications and none for After Final communications.

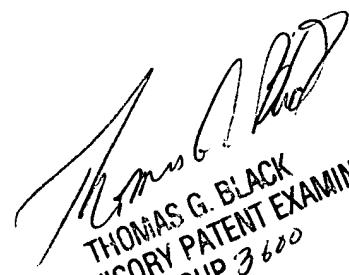
Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

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/tc

April 2, 2003



Thomas G. Black
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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